UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 8, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark today announced that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict being sought in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, has been located in London, England.

FBI Director John Edgar Hoover said that Ray, who has used the name of Eric Starvo Galt and other alias, was detained by officers of New Scotland Yard at 11:15 a.m., London time, this morning. Ray was traveling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had two Canadian passports in that name in his possession. One passport had been issued at Ottawa on April 24, 1968, and the other had been issued May 16, 1968, at Lisbon, Portugal, by the Canadian embassy in that city. Mr. Hoover advised that Ray was located based on information furnished by the FBI to New Scotland Yard. At the time of his detention, Ray was passing through British immigration offices and was planning to take a flight to Brussels, Belgium.

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Hoover said that Ray is now being held at London's Cannon Row Police Station under maximum security conditions.

Mr. Hoover further advised that Ray was armed with a fully loaded pistol which was found in his hip pocket. He was wearing glasses and was dressed in a light colored raincoat, a sports jacket and gray trousers.

Director Hoover advised that Ray's arrest was the direct result of intensive investigation by the FBI pursued in all fifty states--as well as in Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries. In particular, Mr. Hoover signaled out the outstanding cooperation received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and from England's New Scotland Yard.

FBI Director Hoover pointed out that Ray was detained in England based on his use of fraudulent documentation--a passport--and also on the fact he was carrying a concealed weapon. A 1st degree murder indictment was returned by the Shelby County Grand Jury in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 7, 1968, charging Ray and necessary extradition proceedings will be initiated shortly.

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray was added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" on April 20, 1968.

Mr. Hoover stated that the 40-year-old Ray [illegible] escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. He was received at the institution on March 17, 1960, to serve a 20-year sentence following conviction in St. Louis for armed robbery and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In April, 1967, he was reported missing from the State Penitentiary; and on July 20, 1967, based on information indicating Ray had fled from Missouri, an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawful flight to avoid confinement for armed robbery.

On April 17, 1968, the FBI filed a complaint at Birmingham, Alabama, charging him, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

This FBI complaint charges that:

"On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ... Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ... in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or

laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

Immediately after the fatal shooting, a 30.06 rifle with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis which overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying. Mr. Hoover said FBI Agents determined that the rifle had been purchased on March 30, 1968, from a gun dealer in Birmingham and that the telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

On April 19, 1968, Mr. Hoover announced that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against the fingerprints of the over 53,000 persons for whom "Wanted Notices" had been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that Galt and Ray were identical.

FBI Agents also identified him as the owner of an abandoned 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was

located in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. As Eric Galt, he had purchased the Mustang from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. From that date until it was abandoned in early April, 1968, the car was driven more than 19,000 miles.

Mr. Hoover said that the fugitive's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham, Memphis and Atlanta, as well as to Mexico. He visited Mexico in October and November, 1967. He made a trip to Canada earlier in 1967 before purchasing the Mustang.

According to the FBI Director, while in Montreal, Canada, in the Summer of 1967, Ray enrolled as Eric Galt for a correspondence course in locksmithing offered by a school in New Jersey. He also took a course in bartending in Los Angeles early this year, graduating on March 2, 1968. In addition, he also took dance lessons in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Mr. Hoover said that a summary of the FBI's investigation in this case, together with the findings of the FBI Laboratory and the results of fingerprint examinations by the Identification Division, will be made available to Tennessee authorities.